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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT NO.

TOPIC 1. 29th Infantry Regiment in Jindrichuv Hradec

2. Chemical Battalion in Jaromer

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT prior to 14 April 1951

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

18 February 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - Standard Manpower Questionnaire

REMARKS

SOURCE

25X1 29th Infantry Regiment in Jindrichuv Hradec.

1. Prior to 14 April 1951, the 29th Inf Regt in Jindrichuv Hradec (O 50/R 28) was subordinate to a division in C. Budějovice (O 49/1 96). The military post at Jindrichuv Hradec was repeatedly inspected by Soviet Colonel Artamanov (fnu) who was accompanied by officers of the division headquarters. The Soviet officer wore long blue trousers, gold epaulets with two longitudinal colored stripes and four stars, and a flat visor-type cap. Officers of the regiment included Lieutenant Colonel Frantisek Novotny, commanding officer; Major Volkoun (fnu), deputy commanding officer; Major Prusa (fnu), political officer; Staff Captain Baca (fnu), motor transport officer; and Staff Captain Hora (fnu), commanding officer of one battalion. About 80 percent of the personnel of the regimental units were Czechs and 20 percent were Slovaks. *
2. Barracks installations in which components of the regiment were quartered included the Svecovy Barracks on the northwestern edge of town, housing headquarters with the headquarters company of about 30 men, the chemical platoon of 10 men, the reconnaissance company of about 30 men, the heavy weapons company, and the replacement training battalion; the Zizkovy Barracks on the east side of the road to Otin (O 50/R 32) on the southern edge of town, housing a battalion; and the Masarykovy Barracks at the northeastern edge of town, the Stare Barracks south of the Svecovy Barracks, and the Jemcina Castle housing other units of the regiment.
3. The chemical platoon was equipped with eight flame throwers, smoke shells and rubberized clothes, and had one Praga-RN truck. Each soldier of the regiment was equipped with an antigas paulin and an old German gas mask. The decontamination agents available were calcium chloride and Glosantin (sic). The heavy weapons company was equipped with light artillery pieces and mortars which were towed by trucks. There were about 100 Praga-RN trucks in the Zizkovy Barracks, for the use of components of the regiment. **
4. The chemical platoon participated in each field practice. A new Czech gas mask was demonstrated, but only one sample was available. The filter was carried in a bag on the back and was connected with the face piece by a hose. In March 1951, an NCO of the unit was detached to a school in Olomouc (P 50/N 35), which source referred to as chemical school. *** The regiment conducted several training alerts each month. All of the components participating in these alerts were carried by trucks.

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Document No.

No Change in Class. ☐☐ Declassified

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11-9-78

SECRET/ [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

25X1
25X1Chemical Battalion in Jaromer.

5. Prior to December 1950, a chemical battalion was known to be stationed in Jaromer (O 51/G 82). It had come from Olomouc in the summer of 1950. Officers of the battalion included Major Otakar Melnick, commanding officer; Major Sedlacek (fnu), deputy commanding officer; and Junior Lieutenant Karlan (fnu), political officer. The battalion was quartered in a barracks installation which was located on the west side of the road to Caslavky (O 51/G 82) on the northeastern edge of the town and consisted of 2 three-story and 4 one-story buildings surrounded by an iron fence, a wall and a wooden fence.
6. The battalion was organized in 3 companies of about 150 recruits each and 1 unit of soldiers. The 3d Company was equipped with model 98-N rifles; 10 light machine guns, only 2 of which were in use; some old German flame throwers with a maximum range of about 30 meters and with a capacity of 8 liters of liquid. The battalion was equipped with about 18 new Praga-RN trucks and 4 sedans.
7. Theoretical instruction on the use of chemical warfare agents was started in mid-November 1950. Lectures given included those on irritant agents such as benzyl bromide, bromobenzyl cyanide and bronacetonephenol mustard gas, Lewisite, hydrocyanic acid, arsenic acid, and others. In addition, lectures were given on chemicals for flame throwers, incendiary bottles, etc. The incendiary bottles contained about 0.75 liters of a dark oily liquid. During the instruction on smoke screens, chlorosulfonic acid was discussed. This acid was placed in 12-liter steel flasks under a pressure of 8 atmospheres. A test tube, whose contents changed color when affected by gas, was used for gas detection.

* [REDACTED] Comment. The report confirms the 29th Inf Regt in Jindrichuv Hradec. As this regiment is assigned to the 1st Inf Div, the report also confirms this division in C. Budejovice. Lieutenant Colonel Novotny (fnu) is believed to be the Major Novotny (fnu) who was reported to have been in command of a battalion of the 29th Inf Regt in March 1950. [REDACTED]

** [REDACTED] Comment. The regiment has apparently been reorganized into a motorized infantry regiment and is stationed, with all its components, in Jindrichuv. As there have also been reports on motorized and tank units in other military posts in the area of the 1st Inf Div, it is believed that the division is being reorganized into a motorized infantry division. [REDACTED]

*** [REDACTED] Comment. A military school for chemical troops in Olomouc has been known from previous reports.

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